
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in April was 295,479 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,849 tons, slightly lower than that of the previous month but slightly higher than the rate for April 1996.

The monthly average U.S. spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 79.6 cents per pound in March to 75.6 cents per pound in April, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap had increased by a penny to 59 to 61 cents per pound at the beginning of April. In mid-April, the price range decreased to 56 to 58 cents per pound, and remained at this level through the end of the month. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's was 59.1 cents per pound.

National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Sale

On May 8, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced the sale of 10,716 tons (11,812 short tons) of aluminum metal from the NDS. The value of the metal sold was \$17.6 million

(Defense Logistics Agency, 1997a). On June 5, the DLA awarded 9,262 tons (10,210 short tons) valued at \$14.8 million (Defense Logistics Agency, 1997b).

The total amount of material available for these sales, which began on April 15, was 57,045 tons (62,882 short tons). As of June 5, sales have totalled 28,946 tons (31,907 short tons).

Update

The monthly average spot or market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 78.7 cents per pound in May. The *American Metal Market* buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap increased to 58 to 60 cents per pound in mid-May and remained at this level through May 23.

References Cited

- Defense Logistics Agency, 1997a, Stockpile accepts aluminum bids: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, May 8, 1 p.
———1997b, Stockpile accepts aluminum bids: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, June 5, 2 p.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: p/	3,577	1,770	1,550	3,320	1,910	498	2,410	9,300	1,830
1996:									
April	293	151	134	285	188	41	229	807	2,020
May	303	152	136	287	176	42	217	808	1,960
June	293	145	122	267	169	40	210	769	1,980
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	138	281	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	147	128	276	180	39	219	800	1,830
Jan.-Apr.	1,181	593	499	1,090	643	157	800	3,070	2,020
1997:									
January	305	158	130	288	145	42	188	781	1,840
February	277	151	124	276	147	37	184	737	1,830 r/
March	307	158	135	293	209	48	257	858	1,810
April	295	158	134	292	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-Apr.	1,185	626	524	1,150	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: p/	1,490	1,210	1,410	1,250	815	752	107	98	7	7	3,830	3,320
1996:												
April	124	101	132	117	63	58	9	9	1	1	329	285
May	124	101	129	114	69	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	331	287
June	124	101	108	96	66	61	9	8	1	1	308	267
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	102	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	281
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(2/)	(2/)	315	273
December	124	100	113	100	72	67	9	8	1	1	318	276
Jan.-Apr.	495	401	477	425	251	231	36	32	2	2	1,260	1,090
1997:												
January	122	99	126	112	75	70	7	6	1	1	331	288
February	121	98	116	103	74	68	6	6	(2/)	(2/)	318	276
March	122	98	132	116	79 r/	72	6	6	(2/)	(2/)	339	293
April	124	100	128	114	77	72	6	6	(2/)	(2/)	336	292
Jan.-Apr.	489	396	502	446	306	282	26	23	2	2	1,320	1,150

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	103,000	124,000	83,900	100,000
Integrated aluminum companies	128,000	128,000	114,000	114,000
Independent mill fabricators	64,500	77,500	59,700	71,600
Foundries	5,110	6,140	4,590	5,510
Other consumers	362	434	362	434
Total	302,000	336,000	263,000	292,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
APRIL 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	22,300	86,600	86,800	22,000
Can stock clippings	6,470	21,700	22,300	5,840
Other clippings	6,590 r/	15,300	15,300	6,590
Borings and turnings	4,830 r/	17,800	17,900	4,780
Dross and skimmings	3,200	17,200	17,200	3,190
Total new scrap	43,400 r/	159,000	160,000	42,400
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	22,300 r/	49,700	50,300	21,700
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,100 r/	953	1,050	1,000
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	28,800	82,800	85,100	26,600
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	976	4,940	4,870	1,050
Total old scrap	53,200 r/	138,000	141,000	50,300
Sweated pig	2,680	1,090	1,090	2,680
Total all classes	99,200 r/	298,000	302,000	95,400

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES IN APRIL 1997 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,900	4,090	4,500	3,490
380 and variations	12,800	39,600	39,500	12,800
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,000	966	966	13,000
No. 319 and variations	3,600	6,170	6,140	3,630
F-132 alloy and variations	1,850	2,750	2,750	1,850
Al-Zn alloys	453	118	118	453
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	94 r/	169	168	95
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	77	60
Other 3/	2,370	3,660	3,320	2,710
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	4,670	14,300	14,300	4,640
Total all alloys	42,800	71,900	71,900	42,800
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	3,110	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	5,030	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	384	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	63,400	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.
Argentina	958	2,770	2	18	142	1,220	1,100	4,010
Australia	189	615	56	108	202	400	447	1,120
Bahrain	--	--	645	966	--	--	645	966
Belgium	--	18	358	1,250	53	117	411	1,380
Bosnia and Hercegovina	--	--	17	17	--	--	17	17
Brazil	20	20	5	21	--	--	25	41
Canada	130,000	361,000	29,300	78,100	17,800	55,500	177,000	495,000
Croatia	--	--	76	93	--	--	76	93
Czech Republic	--	--	--	11	--	--	--	11
France	19	83	636	1,850	681	1,510	1,340	3,440
Germany	7	46	2,910	6,940	34	981	2,960	7,970
Hungary	4	4	169	272	--	--	173	276
Italy	--	--	162	739	--	--	162	739
Japan	37	123	1,600	4,090	9	131	1,650	4,340
Korea, Republic of	--	16	26	46	347	840	374	901
Mexico	228	581	1,040	2,910	6,520	19,100	7,780	22,600
Netherlands	2	3	504	1,150	76	625	582	1,780
Norway	17	93	742	979	--	--	759	1,070
Russia	64,400	97,500	3,340	6,380	289	763	68,100	105,000
Slovakia	39	116	--	--	--	--	39	116
Slovenia	--	--	109	779	--	--	109	779
South Africa	--	2,620	258	931	43	170	301	3,720
Spain	--	--	696	2,530	--	--	696	2,530
Sweden	--	--	267	756	147	280	414	1,040
Switzerland	--	--	158	557	--	--	158	557
Ukraine	2	396	--	19	--	--	2	416
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	113	436	113	436
United Kingdom	89	194	1,640	3,910	910	3,080	2,640	7,180
Venezuela	12,400	34,800	1,430	6,090	1,200	4,240	15,000	45,100
Other	--	(2/)	2,270	5,930	4,410	12,900	6,690	18,800
Total	209,000	501,000	48,400	127,000	32,900	102,000	290,000	731,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.	Mar.	Jan. - Mar.
Australia	59	114	208	926	1	1	267	1,040
Belgium	--	7	1,540	2,590	20	62	1,570	2,660
Brazil	4	7	5,010	16,900	--	1	5,010	17,000
Canada	11,000	35,500	35,700	105,000	6,200	19,400	52,900	160,000
China	152	582	3,230	8,760	2,450	7,790	5,830	17,100
Czech Republic	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Dominican Republic	--	--	249	541	--	--	249	541
Estonia	--	3	--	--	--	--	--	3
France	34	56	528	1,120	1	1	563	1,180
Georgia	--	--	3	3	--	--	3	3
Germany	54	196	1,960	3,540	--	24	2,020	3,760
Hong Kong	670	1,020	875	3,520	3,080	6,990	4,620	11,500
India	--	--	3	26	--	104	3	130
Israel	2	4	79	155	--	--	80	159
Italy	6	27	288	352	20	20	313	399
Japan	3,180	21,400	3,560	9,280	4,000	10,700	10,700	41,400
Korea, Republic of	1,420	4,390	2,130	6,450	2,610	8,910	6,170	19,800
Malaysia	6	6	376	1,400	98	124	480	1,530
Mexico	4,430	11,400	9,510	27,400	2,100	6,560	16,000	45,300
Netherlands	15	34	209	352	--	--	225	386
Russia	--	--	(2/)	4	--	--	(2/)	4
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2,320	4,720	--	--	2,320	4,720
Singapore	20	62	228	793	--	--	247	854
Spain	--	1	351	849	--	18	351	867
Sweden	--	--	10	23	--	--	10	23
Taiwan	915	2,400	321	1,760	4,670	14,700	5,910	18,900
Thailand	222	763	1,060	2,170	141	405	1,430	3,330
United Kingdom	65	200	1,670	4,570	1,540	2,330	3,270	7,100
Venezuela	--	48	581	2,240	--	37	581	2,320
Other	169	726	5,840	17,900	531	1,040	6,540	19,700
Total	22,500	78,900	77,800	223,000	27,500	79,300	128,000	382,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.